

AS BROADCAST

FINAL DRAFT

FILE COPY
DO NOT
REMOVE

*Best Wives
Norman Lear*
ALL IN THE FAMILY

Written and Produced

By

Norman Lear

Directed by

John Rich

A Bud Yorkin-Norman Lear Production

Episode #1

Tape: December 15, 1970

Air: January 12, 1971

c Copyright 1971. TANDEM PRODUCTIONS, INC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

No portion of this script may be performed or reproduced by any means or quoted or published in any medium without the prior written consent of TANDEM PRODUCTIONS, INC., 1901 Avenue of the Stars, Suite 666, Los Angeles, California 90067.

AVERY ARCHITECTURAL AND FINE ARTS LIBRARY

GIFT OF SEYMOUR B. DURST OLD YORK LIBRARY

ALL IN THE FAMILYACT ONEFADE UP:

(GLORIA IN DINING ROOM SETTING TABLE.)

MIKE ENTERS FRONT DOOR)

MIKE

Gloria -- I hurried back.

GLORIA

Good, you can take out the garbage.

MIKE

Garbage is not exactly what I had
in mind. Come here.

GLORIA

Not now, Michael.

MIKE

Why not?

GLORIA

I want everything ready for when
the folks get back from church.

(COMES D.S. TO TABLE)

It's different, isn't it, an
anniversary brunch.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2014

<https://archive.org/details/allinfamily00lear>

MIKE

Yeah, well I think your mother will love it. But your father -- he doesn't care about anniversaries. I mean, you hadda pick out the present for him to give to your mother. And I had to get the card. And he doesn't know about any of this. What do you think he's gonna do when he finds out?

GLORIA

He'll have a fit. But then, he wouldn't get her anything and it'll make Mom's day.

MIKE

What are you running from me? Come here.

(HE KISSES HER)

Gloria, we've been living with your folks since we're married. We don't get the house alone that much!

GLORIA

Oh we're not alone. Lionel's upstairs.

MIKE

Lionel? Why?

GLORIA

He's fixing the portable TV for Dad.

MIKE

(REACTS)

GLORIA

And then later he's gonna take the present and get some fresh-cut flowers and deliver them together, just to make it more romantic.

LIONEL

(ENTERING)

Set's good as new, Gloria. Hey, how's it going, Mike?

MIKE

Hey Lionel, how are you?

GLORIA

I'll get the present.

(GLORIA EXITS)

L'ONEL

Hey, so what's new on the campus with all you angry white social democrats?

MIKE

Oh, we're shaking them up.

LIONEL

(LAUGHS)

Okay.

(LOOKING AROUND)

Hey, where's your father-in-law?

MIKE

Oh, he's at church.

LIONEL

Good.

MIKE

Why? Is he still giving you
a hard time?

LIONEL

Oh, I'm used to him by now. You
know his latest kick?

MIKE

What?

LIONEL

Asking me what I'm gonna be when
I get to college. He likes to hear
me say: "Ahm gwana be a 'lectical
engineer."

MIKE

And you say that for him?

LIONEL

Give the people what they want, man.
How else do I get to become an
electrical engineer?

GLORIA

(ENTERING WITH SMALL PACKAGE)

Here's the present and the card.
Mom likes just about any kind of
flowers, so -- will a dollar be
enough?

LIONEL

Crazy. Where I get my flowers
this represents a buck profit!

(TO MIKE)

See ya', man.

(HE EXITS)

MIKE

See ya, Lionel.

GLORIA

(TURNS INTO HIS ARMS)

Alright now, Michael. Promise
me something. For today. For their
twenty-second anniversary. No
fighting with Daddy. Okay?

MIKE

Okay

GLORIA

Thank you.

(THEY KISS. HE NODS "YES" AND SHE
NODS "NO")

GLORIA

No Michael, not now. I don't have any time.

MIKE

Gloria, they won't be out of church 'till eleven thirty; it's a ten minute walk; we got time to spare.

GLORIA

Not now, Michael. I've got too much on my mind.

(SHE EXITS INTO KITCHEN. HE FOLLOWS)

MIKE

One little thing more it's not gonna hurt...

GLORIA

But we have to be downstairs to yell 'surprise'.

MIKE

They'll be downstairs. Let them yell 'surprise'.

GLORIA

For their own anniversary!

MIKE

Come here!

(HE STARTS KISSING HER, MUTTERING
"YEAH, FOR THEIR OWN ANNIVERSARY" --
AND SHE RESPONDS)

(CUT TO: FRONT DOOR AREA)

(TWO OTHER VOICES ARE HEARD COMING
TOWARD THE APARTMENT FROM THE OUTSIDE)

ARCHIE'S VOICE (O.S.)

If you don't like what I do then
what the hell did you bring me
there for? Anyway?

EDITH'S VOICE (O.S.)

I ain't gonna quarrel with ya',
Archie.

(AS THEY ENTER)

It's maybe the fourth time in
twenty-two years you been to church
with me, so I'm grateful for the
half'a sermon we sat through.

ARCHIE

Half a sermon was plenty. He said
all I wanted to hear. And I've
been to church with more than four
times in twenty-two years, too.

EDITH

Well maybe it's six times, seven,
if you want to include the time we
were married in church.

(SHE TAKES OFF HER HAT)

EDITH (CONT'D)

Look, I don't wanna make no World
War Three out of this...

(ARCHIE SEES THE TABLE SET AND THE
PARTY STREAMERS)

ARCHIE

Whaddya call all this?

EDITH

The table's set with the good glasses
and all -- oh, it's for our anniversary!
Look Archie, Gloria and Mike, they
made us a brunch!

ARCHIE

A "what"?

EDITH

A brunch.

ARCHIE

"BRUNCH."

(HE PICKS UP MAGAZINE)

It figures. She's reading
Cosmopolitan again!

(AT THIS MOMENT, MIKE ENTERS, CARRYING
GLORIA. THEY ARE LOCKED IN A KISS AS THEY
HEAD FOR THE STAIRS. ARCHIE AND EDITH
REGARD THEM WORDLESSLY. GLORIA AND MIKE
SUDDENLY SENSE ARCHIE'S PRESENCE)

GLORIA

Hi!

MIKE

You're early.

ARCHIE

So are you.

MIKE

(HE PUTS GLORIA DOWN)

We were just gonna go sit down
over there.

ARCHIE

Eleven-ten of a Sunday mornin'.

(GATHERING THEMSELVES TOGETHER, GLORIA
AND MIKE BEGIN TO SING:)

GLORIA AND MIKE

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO YOU

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO YOU

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY DEAR MOM AND DAD

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO YOU.

EDITH

Oh my, Archie, ain't this nice?

ARCHIE

Five minutes more and we would've
got it remote from the bedroom!

GLORIA

Gee, Mom, would you tell him it's
normal!

(EXITS)

EDITH

(SHE GOES TO ARCHIE)

Oh, Archie, why do you wanna pick on them, when you've just had such a nice surprise?

ARCHIE

They was the ones that had the surprise! Used to be, the daylight hours was reserved for the respectable things of life.

MIKE

Come on, Archie, certain things're no different now than they ever were.

ARCHIE

Whaddya talkin'! Get your feet off the furniture! In my day we was able to keep things in their proper suspective.

(TO MIKE)

Take keepin' company, for instance. When your mother-in-law and me was goin' around together -- it was two whole years -- we never -- I never -- I mean there was nothin' -- I mean absolutely nothin' -- not 'till the wedding night.

EDITH

Yeah, and even then...

(GLORIA BRINGS A TRAY OF ORANGE JUICE
AROUND. SHE SPEAKS GAILY TO CHANGE
THEIR MOOD)

GLORIA

Now -- here we are -- we have
the juice in here -- then we go
in there for brunch.

EDITH

My, my, how fancy.

ARCHIE

Alright leave it there, huh.
Cosmopolitan!

GLORIA

Oh, stop it, Daddy. I think it's
very today.

EDITH

That's right. The "in " crowd.
never has a whole meal in one room
anymore.

(ARCHIE LOOKS AT HER)

That's what they say.

ARCHIE

You're a pip, you know that. A
real pip!

GLORIA

You're married twenty-two years today,
Daddy, so talk real nice to Mom, okay?

ARCHIE

(TO GLORIA)

Listen little girl -- you just go on
and mind your own beeswax, huh?

(GLORIA BENDS TO SET TRAY DOWN)

And pull down that skirt. Every-
time you sit down in one of them
things, the mystery is over.

What the hell is it nowadays! Will
ya tell me! Girls wit' skirts up to
here, guys wit' hair down to there!
Gee. I stopped in a Gent's Room
the other day. So help me there was
a guy in there with a ponytail. My
heart turned right over in me -- I
thought I was in the wrong toilet!

MIKE

Why do you fight it? The world's
changing.

EDITH

That's right. That's what the
Reverend Felcher was sayin'. You
two should have heard him. Of course,
Mr. Religion here wasn't seeing eye-
to-eye with the sermon.

ARCHIE

What sermon! That was Socialist propaganda, pure and simple. And don't give me that look. You didn't think it was so hot, neither.

EDITH

I said it was different, that's all. But I didn't curse the Reverend from right there in the front pew.

ARCHIE

He never heard me. Besides, I ain't sittin' still for no preacher tellin' me that I'm to blame for all this here break-down in law and order that's goin' on.

MIKE

Why not? We're all to blame for not paying enough attention to the cause of it.

ARCHIE

The cause of it? I'll tell ya the cause of it. The cause of it is these sob sisters like the Reverend Felcher. And the bleedin' hearts and weepin' Nellies like youse two!

MIKE

Like us?

ARCHIE

Yeah.

EDITH

I think we better eat now.

MIKE

No, wait a second. It's you.

ARCHIE

Me?

MIKE

Yeah, that's right. You -- the property owners, with your twenty-four inch TV's and your four-slice toasters and your ice-maker refrigerators. That's all you care about Archie, is what you got and how you can keep it.

ARCHIE

You'd care about it, too, sonny boy, if you had anything. If you wasn't livin' offa me -- without a pot to peel a potato in!

(ARCHIE CROSSES TO DINING ROOM AND

MIKE FOLLOWS)

MIKE

Wait a second. You're the one who said I could stay here while I'm in school --

ARCHIE

Yeah, but I thought you was gonna be for a year while you learn a trade or something. I didn't think you was gonna wind up in college learnin' how to be a subversive!

MIKE

What are you talkin' about? -- I just want to know a little bit about society so I can help people.

ARCHIE

People -- your mother-in-law an' me is people -- help us -- will ya go to work!

MIKE

I know what's bothering you -- you're upset because I was nailing you on that law and order thing.

ARCHIE

You nailin' me!

MIKE

Yeah, that's right. Now I'm gonna tell you something.

GLORIA

Michael!

MIKE

Wait a second. I'm sorry, Gloria, I know I promised -- but I feel I have to say this. You know why we got a breakdown in law and order in this country, Archie, because we got poverty, real poverty, and we got that because guys like you are afraid to give the black man and the Mexican-American and all the other minorities their just and rightful hard-earned share of the American dream.

GLORIA

Who said he wasn't smart? That's beautiful, Michael. Beautiful.

ARCHIE

(APING HER)

Oh, that's gorgeous.

(GETS UP AND CROSSES INTO LIVING ROOM)

(MORE)

ARCHIE (CONT'D)

Now let me tell you something. If,
your Spics and Spades want their
rightful share of the American Dream,
let 'em go out and hustle for it
just like I done.

MIKE

(FOLLOWING HIM)

Yeah, but Archie you're forgetting
one thing. You didn't have to
hustle with black skin.

ARCHIE

No, and I didn't have to hustle with
one arm and one leg neither. So
what?

MIKE

So you're admitting that the black
man is handicapped.

ARCHIE

Oh no. No more'n me. He's just as
good as me.

MIKE

Now I suppose you're gonna tell me
that the black man has had the
same opportunity in this country as
you.

ARCHIE

More. He's had more. I didn't
have no million people out there
marchin' and protestin' to get me
my job!

EDITH

No, his uncle got it for him.

ARCHIE

(AFTER A WITHERING LOOK TO EDITH)

All I'm saying is don't blame me --
you and that Reverend Bleedin' Heart
Felcher up there in his ivory shower. --

(EDITH CROSSES IN FROM DINING ROOM)

EDITH

Now, that's enough -- talking about
a man of the cloth that way. God
could punish you for that.

MIKE

God! What God?

GLORIA

Yeah. What God?

ARCHIE

What was that?

(TO EDITH)

Did you hear him? Did you hear
her?

(MORE)

ARCHIE (CONT'D)

(TO MIKE)

What was that remark, sonny?

EDITH

(HEADING BACK TO DINING ROOM --

MIKE FOLLOWS)

I think we better eat now.

ARCHIE

Not yet.

(TO MIKE)

I wanna know what you meant by

— "What God?"

MIKE

It's nothing Archie. It's nothing.

You need God, so forget it.

(ARCHIE MOVES TO TABLE)

EDITH

That's no way to talk on the

Sabbath, Mike.

ARCHIE

Stifle, Edith.

EDITH

And no way to talk to your father-

in-law either.

ARCHIE

Edith, I told you to --

EDITH

I mean, you know Sunday's a day
of rest and peace. And you eat
a nice brunch.

ARCHIE

Edith, will you stifle.

EDITH

Archie, we're all hungry.

ARCHIE

Will you stifle!!

(ARCHIE MOVES TO HIS CHAIR. MIKE AND
GLORIA REACH FOR TOAST)

Don't touch nothing. Nobody eats
nothing around here until we get
this thing straight.

(WAITS A BEAT; SPEAKS TO MIKE)

Now, Sonny boy, you made a certain
referential remark there a minute
or so ago along the following lines.
"What God?" you said. And I heard
your wife, my flesh and blood,
repeated it. So let's hear it,
okay? What did you mean by, "What
God?"

MIKE

We just don't see any evidence of
God, that's all.

GLORIA

That's right, Daddy.

ARCHIE

"That's right, Daddy"...

(EXPLODES STANDING AND PACING D.S.)

Well, I knew I had a couple of pinkos
in this house; but I didn't
know we had atheists. Did you
know that's what we had -- a
pair of atheists under the roof,
Edith!

EDITH

Maybe if we could just eat a little
something.

ARCHIE

Will you stifle, you silly dingbat!

EDITH

I don't want no more arguments.

ARCHIE

(SITTING)

We are not arguing, we are dis-
cussing.

EDITH

I don't care what you call it, it's
still arguing.

ARCHIE

We're having what we always have
around here -- a discussion.

EDITH

I don't see the difference.

ARCHIE

That's cause you're a dingbat!
Now -- will you stay the hell
outta this!

(EDITH PUTS HAT ON)

And get that ridiculous hat off
your head!

EDITH

So long as you don't argue.

ARCHIE

Edith! Stay the hell outta this!

(REACHES FOR COFFEE HANDLE AND GRABS
SPOUT INSTEAD)

OW! Owwww! Oh my God!

(HE PACES UP AND BACK, WAVING HIS ARM,
CUPPING IT BETWEEN HIS KNEES, WHINING
ALL THE WHILE THE FAMILY CROSSES TO HIM)

MIKE

What's the matter?

ARCHIE

Get away from me, you meathead.
It's all your fault. You nearly
burnt the hand off of me.

GLORIA

What did he do?

ARCHIE

He helps himself to coffee then
he turns the handle around the
other way.

GLORIA

(MIKE AND GLORIA LEAVE)

Daddy, he didn't do it on purpose.

EDITH

(GOING TO HIM)

Let me see... It really hurts, huh?

ARCHIE

(ANSWERS WITH A GRUNT OF PAIN)

Yeah.

EDITH

Right about in there?

ARCHIE

(ANOTHER GRUNT)

Yeah.

EDITH

You know what I think we oughta
do?

ARCHIE

What do you think?

EDITH

I think we oughta eat.

(SHE HEADS FOR THE TABLE. CAMERA HOLDS
ON ARCHIE'S REACTION)

(APPLAUSE)

FADE TO BLACK

(TAPE STOP)

ACT TWOFADE UP:

(THE TABLE. THE FAMILY IS EATING.
TABLE TALK. ONE CHANGE IN MOOD,
THEY ARE WEARING THE PAPER PARTY HATS)

ARCHIE

Gimme over the ketchut there,
will ya?

GLORIA

Ketchup on eggs? Daddy, really!

ARCHIE

"Daddy Really's" been eatin'
ketchup on eggs since before you
was born, little girl, so don't
let it concern ya, huh?

(HE BELCHES)

EDITH

Archie, that's terrible.

GLORIA

(GETTING UP)

Well, who's for more eggs?

EDITH

Sure I can't help you, dear?

GLORIA

Not today, Mom. Today you sit.

If I need any help, Michael can do it.

ARCHIE

It won't do him no harm neither.
The last time I seen him lift a
hand around here, he was testing
his deodorant.

GLORIA

Mom!

EDITH

Archie -- leave him alone!

MIKE

Ya! What do you want from me,
anyway! I don't have time to
do anything. I'm in class six
hours, I'm studying six hours.
It's not easy going to college;
it's hard work!

ARCHIE

For you, it's like building the
pyramids; I'll tell you, studyin'
sociology, and all that welfare
stuff -- I don't call that no
hard work!

GLORIA

Oh, leave him alone, Daddy. I
think it's beautiful that Michael
wants to help the underprivileged.

ARCHIE

He wants to help the underprivileged,
let him start with himself. He's
got no brains. He's got no ambition,
and if that ain't underprivileged,
I don't know what is.

GLORIA

(STANDS)

That's it! Mother, we're moving
out of here. I'm not gonna stay
here another minute to see my
husband insulted like that.

EDITH

(AN ARM AROUND GLORIA'S WAIST)

Archie; say you're sorry! If she
leaves here, she'll be dead
inside a year.

ARCHIE

You don't have to worry. They ain't
goin' nowheres.

EDITH

You don't know what it is, Archie.
She can't be cleaning an apartment
and cookin' and marketing -- Dr.
Feinstein says she's anemic.

ARCHIE

Don't gimme that. For ten bucks
some of these doctors'll tell ya
anything you wanta hear.

EDITH

He's the best there is when it
comes to blood. My own cousin from
the hospital said so.

ARCHIE

Your cousin from the hospital
empties bedpans, don't make him
out no specialist. And, I know
what Dr. Feinberg said.

EDITH

Feinstein --

ARCHIE

Feinstein, Feinberg, it all comes
to the same thing, and I know that
tribe.

EDITH

I'm telling you, Archie, them kids
don't leave this house until Mike
can provide for her proper.

MIKE

Oh boy! Four years before I even
begin to make a living! It seems
like forever!

ARCHIE

Lemme tell you, sonny boy,
the same thought crosses my mind
at least once a day.

GLORIA

Mom!

ARCHIE

Gloria, you married the laziest
white man I ever seen.

MIKE

Alright, alright, it's bad enough
you gotta make fun of me, you
don't have to make it worse by
attacking a whole race.

ARCHIE

Who's attacking a whole race?

MIKE

You are. You said I was the
laziest white man you ever met.

ARCHIE

What's the matter with that?

MIKE

White man you ever met?

ARCHIE

Yeah, you!

MIKE

Implying that the blacks are even lazier.

ARCHIE

Now wait a minute you meathead. You said that, not me. I never said your black beauties is lazy. It's just their systems is geared slower than the rest of us.

MIKE

Aw, come on, Archie.

ARCHIE

If you don't believe me, look it up!

GLORIA

There's just no fighting his prejudice. There's no hope for him. No hope at all.

ARCHIE

I'm not prejudiced! Any man deserves my respect, he gonna get it. Irregardless of his color!

MIKE

Then why do you call them names like "Black beauties" for?

ARCHIE

Now, that's where I got you,
Mr. Liberal. Because there's
a black guy who works with me
down the building's got a
bumper sticker on his car that
says "Black is Beautiful," so
what's a matter with Black Beauties?

EDITH

It's nicer than when he called 'em
coons.

SOUND: DOORBELL RINGS

ARCHIE

If Black Beauties is kosher
with them, it's kosher with me.

(MIKE GOES TO THE DOOR AND OPENS IT
TO REVEAL LIONEL, WITH A SPRAY OF
WILD FLOWERS)

MIKE

Hey, Lionel. How you doin'?
Come on in. You know, in a way
we were just talking about you.

GLORIA

Michael!

ARCHIE

Talkin' about prejudice, I'm glad
you're here Lionel

(GETS UP AND GOES TO LIVING ROOM)

LIONEL

Yes, sir. Mr. Bunker, sir.

(HANDS FLOWERS TO EDITH)

These are for you, Mrs. Bunker.

A present from an admirer.

EDITH

(OVERWHELMED)

For me? Oh my goodness, I ain't
had a present for ten years.

GLORIA

I wonder who it's from.

ARCHIE

(COMING BACK TO TABLE)

There's something I want to ask
you, Lionel...

GLORIA

Wait a minute, Daddy. Let her
open her gift first.

ARCHIE

She waited ten years; another
minute ain't gonna kill her!

(PUTS GIFT ON TABLE, TAKES LIONEL TO
LIVING ROOM)

Come here Lionel. Let me ask your
opinion of somethin' there, Lionel.
When you started join' odd jobs in
the neighborhood, one of the first
guys to throw a little work your

(MORE)

ARCHIE (CONT'D)

way -- by the way, didya fix
the TV up in the bedroom?

LIONEL

Sure did, Mr. Bunker.

(LIONEL NODS. ARCHIE SLIPS HIM SOME
CHANGE)

ARCHIE

Swell. Good boy... Here, put
this in your pocket.

EDITH

Cheaper than a repairman, believe
me.

ARCHIE

Is anybody talkin' to you... Now,
Lionel, you could say by throwin'
you these little jobs, in a way
I was helpin' you get some money
so you can get through college
so's you can become...

LIONEL

A 'lectical engineer.

ARCHIE

(LOVES IT)

Yeah. Ya hear that?

MIKE

(IMPATIENT)

Archie, ask your question aready!

ARCHIE

Will you keep your drawers on?

Hey, by the way, that's a pretty nice looking suit you got on there. I mean it's classy, it's quiet. Where'd you get it?

LIONEL

Up in Harlem.

ARCHIE

(LOOKS)

Nah.

LIONEL

Now I got two more, but one's in yellow with stripes, the other one's in purple with checks. You know, for when I'm with my people.

ARCHIE

Well, anyway Lionel, I'd say you know me pretty good, wouldn't you?

LIONEL

Oh, yes, sir. I got a bead on you, all right. I know you real good.

ARCHIE

Good, good.

MIKE

(CROSSING TO LIVING ROOM)

Alright, alright, let's get
to the point. Lionel what he
wants to know, is if you think
he's prejudiced.

LIONEL

(FEIGNING INNOCENCE)

Prejudiced?

ARCHIE

Yeah.

LIONEL

Prejudiced against who?

MIKE

Against Black People.

LIONEL

Against Black People! Mr. Bunker!
That's the most ridiculous thing
I ever heard!

(ARCHIE TURNS PROUDLY TO THE OTHERS)

ARCHIE

There, you see that wise guy.

(TURNS TO MIKE)

(MORE)

ARCHIE (CONT'D)

You thought you knew him. You
thought you knew me. Oh these
liberals -- they're supposed
to be so sensitive, ya know.
I'll tell you where this guy's
sensitive, Lionel -- right
in his tochas.

(ARCHIE GOES TO DINING ROOM TABLE)

LIONEL

(SURPRISE)

Where?

MIKE

It's a Yiddish word. It means --

(POINTS)

LIONEL

Oh, I know where it's at. I
was just wonderin', Mr. Bunker --
what's with the Jewish word?

ARCHIE

I hear them. We got a couple of
Hebes working down the building.

LIONEL

Does he use words like that
very often?

MIKE

Now and then.

ARCHIE

I told ya, I work with a
couple of Jews.

LIONEL

Beggin' your pardon, Mr. Bunker,
but you wouldn't happen to be
one of them, would you?

ARCHIE

(NO HUMOR ABOUT THIS)

What??

LIONEL

I mean people don't use Jewish
words just like that, do they,
Mike?

MIKE

(CROSSING TO TABLE, SITS)

No, not in my experience.

ARCHIE

Maybe people don't but I do!
And I ain't no Yid!

MIKE

Come to think of it...when your
father was visiting last year....
wasn't his name Davie, or somethin'?

ARCHIE

David, my father's name is David.

MIKE

Yeah, David. And your mother's name...uh... Sarah, wasn't it?

ARCHIE

(TO LIONEL)

Sarah, my mother's name is Sarah

-- So what?

LIONEL

David and Sarah, two Jewish names.

ARCHIE

David and Sarah. Two names right out of the Bible -- which is got nothin' to do with the Jews.

LIONEL

You don't wanna get up tight about it, Mr. Bunker. There's nothing to be ashamed of being Jewish.

ARCHIE

But I ain't Jewish!

MIKE

Look at that -- see the way he uses his hands when he argues. A very Semitic gesture.

ARCHIE

What do you know about it, you
dumb Polack.

MIKE

All right, I'm a Polack.

ARCHIE

You sure are! You're a
Polack Joke!

MIKE

Okay, I don't mind, so I'm Polish.
I don't mind. I'm proud of it!

LIONEL

There you are, Mr. Bunker. Now
you oughta be proud that you're
Jewish.

ARCHIE

(WHINING)

But I ain't Jewish.

EDITH

I didn't know you was Jewish.

ARCHIE

What the hell are you talking
about? You, of all people, should
know that I ain't Jewish.

EDITH

You are talking with your hands.

LIONEL

See, the Jews tend to be emotional.

ARCHIE

(BLOWING)

Now listen to me Lionel. I'm going to give it to you just once more and that's all. I am not Jewish.

LIONEL

Yes, Sir, Mr. Bunker. But even if you are, it doesn't change things between you and me. I mean I'm not gonna throw away nine years of friendship over a little thing like that. So long, everybody.

(HE EXITS)

ALL

Bye, Lionel!

(ARCHIE WATCHES HIM GO AND TURNS TO OTHERS. THEY RESUME EATING QUICKLY)

ARCHIE

Well, I hate a smart alec kid, and I don't care what color he is!

(APPLAUSE)

FADE TO BLACK

(TAPE STOP)

TAG

FADE IN:

(FAMILY AT TABLE)

ARCHIE

(RISING)

Well, I think I'll go up
and lay down and watch a little
TV.

GLORIA

Wait a minute, Dad. Mom
hasn't opened her gift yet.
Open it now, Mom.

MIKE

Yeah, Mom, go ahead.

(FEIGNING IT)

EDITH

(OPENING GIFT)

I can't hardly believe it. Look,
my hands are shaking. Oh! My!
Lace hankies! Look, Gloria,
two beautiful lace hankies!

ARCHIE

Is that all?

(HE STARTS TO WALK AWAY)

MIKE

Hey, wait a second, don't you
want to know who it's from?

GLORIA

Yeah, sit down, Daddy. There's
a card there -- open it!

(ARCHIE SITS)

EDITH

(AS SHE PUTS ON GLASSES TO READ IT)

Oh these are the most beautiful
lace hankies. That's real nice.
And flowers. I just never seen
such --

(READS THE CARD NOW)

Oh -- my glory!

ARCHIE

Come on Edith... Who are they
from?

EDITH

They're from you, Archie.

(ARCHIE COUGHS)

EDITH (CONT'D)

Archie, I can't hardly believe it.
I ain't seen an anniversary gift
from you since the first --

(ARCHIE COUGHS)

(MORE)

EDITH (CONT'D)

Pound his back, Mike --

ARCHIE

Keep away from me, meathead.

(HE CROSSES TO HIS CHAIR)

EDITH

(WHO HASN'T STOPPED TALKING)

You know what I'm going to do?

I'm going to try using one. See
how I look with it. Some people
don't look natural with fancy
things.

(SHE CROSSES TO HER CHAIR AS SHE
TALKS AND DABS HER NOSE DAINILY.
THE KIDS APPLAUD HER)

GLORIA

You look wonderful, Mom.

MIKE

Perfectly natural.

ARCHIE

Just don't blow in it; it'll
go right through.

EDITH

(WARMLY)

Oh, Archie. I just don't know what
to say. Except -- thank you,
sweetheart. Oh, I do thank you, Archie
dear.

(GETS UP AND KISSES HIM)

ARCHIE

(NOT ALTOGETHER UNTOUCHED)

All right, Edith. You're getting
me all wet.

(MIKE AND GLORIA INTO LIVING ROOM)

GLORIA

(HANDING HER THE CARD)

Read the card, Mom.

(ARCHIE THROWS THEM BOTH A LOOK)

EDITH

Oh, Archie, I'll bet it's a
Hallmark.

(LOOKS AT THE BACK OF IT)

Well, pretty near. Oh -- and
inside there's a verse inside.

(SHE CLEARS HER THROAT)

"Together. Through all the years
I've been with you we've had our ups
and downs, 'tis true. But life with
us has just begun -- we've yet to
have all of our fun -- as long as
we're together."

(A LONG BEAT AS EDITH LOOKS WARMLY TOWARD
ARCHIE AND HE LOOKS UNCOMFORTABLE OVER AT
THE KIDS. THEY LAUGH)

ARCHIE

What are you looking at?

(HE SHOOTS THEM A LOOK, THEN HE STARTS TO
RISE -- AND EDITH CATCHES HIM OFF-BALANCE
BY STARTING TO READ A SECOND VERSE)

EDITH

And when my dear we're old and gray
And life for us is sunny weather
We'll look back on our lives and say
It's been a gay, gay lark together.

(ANOTHER LONG MOMENT. EDITH DABS AT HER
EYES WITH A HANKY. ARCHIE CLEARS HIS
THROAT. THEN PULLS HIMSELF TOGETHER)

ARCHIE

Alright, alright -- come on,
party's over. Let's clean this
mess up. Them eggs over there
are starting to foment.

EDITH

Archie, I don't know what to say.
That was so beautiful.

(AFRAID SHE MIGHT CRY, EDITH HURRIES
FROM THE ROOM)

ARCHIE

(NOTICING MIKE AND GLORIA KISSING)

Do you always have to be doing that?
It's as if she was a hamburger.

GLORIA

Mom!

(EXIT)

MIKE

The card kinda got to you, eh?

ARCHIE

What do you mean it got to me?

It got to your mother-in-law.

Women...

MIKE

No, no, no. It got to you, too.

I never knew you were so soft and sentimental.

ARCHIE

Yeah -- well, you don't know much anyhow. I want to tell you something about yourself. You are a person of very little quality. You got no appreciation for some of your finer things.

MIKE

Archie, we're talkin' about a greeting card.

ARCHIE

They got some damn good writers writin' for them cards.

MIKE

Come on.

ARCHIE

Some of your best song lyrics
come right from them cards.

MIKE

Alright, alright. What're you
so excited about, anyway! One
stinkin' little poem on a greeting
card. It's not like you wrote
the thing!

ARCHIE

No, I didn't write it. But who
had the good taste to pick it out!

(MIKE JIGGLES HIS THUMBS INDICATING
HIMSELF. ARCHIE REACTS)

Go on will you, meathead.

(HOLD ON ARCHIE)

(APPLAUSE)

FADE TO BLACK

